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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/900,230	07/06/2001	Rolf Kaiser	MSFT-0577/167503.2	3984

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EXAMINER

PHAM, HUNG Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/900,230

Applicant(s)

KAISER ET AL.

Examiner

HUNG Q PHAM

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/15/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-10, and the cancellation of claims 11-86 in the reply filed on 11/05/2004 is acknowledged.

Priority

2. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to a provisional application, 60/216,106, since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/15/2001 was filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

Claim 10 recites the limitation *song selection* and *user profile*. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gjerdingen et al. [USP 6,539,395 B1] in view of Eyal et al. [USP 6,721,741 B1].

Regarding claim 1, Gjerdingen teaches a method of searching content in a music domain (Gjerdingen, Abstract). As illustrated at FIG. 10A, a User Interface is provided for receiving a music searcher's request for music based upon the listener's preferences including a genre selector 100, an emotion selector 101, a vocal quality selector 102, a

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instruments selector 103 and a tempo selector 105 (Gjerdinen, Col. 28, Lines 1-7). As seen, a list of selector includes a plurality of levels for specifying choice of user preferences to request music is provided by a user to the system performs the claimed *providing a specific choice of user preferences in song content to a content provider*. The response is mapped to attributes, such as genre, emotion, instrument, tempo, as filters to search for music (Gjerdinen, Col. 28, Lines 39-41, and 63-65, Col. 29, Lines 14-16, and 45-50). As seen, the specific choice of user preferences is mapped to music attributes as fundamental musical properties to capture the user's preferences for music as *mapping the specific choice of user preferences in a song analysis and matching system using a set of fundamental musical properties that captures the user's preferences in song content*. As illustrated at FIG. 12, step S1205 performs the claimed *scanning a database using the song analysis and matching system to find other songs that have a similar mapping of musical properties* (Gjerdinen, Col. 31, Lines 34-37) and a music set including the song obtained from the database as *other songs that have a similar mapping of musical properties* is presented to the user (Gjerdinen, Col. 32, Lines 1-4). The missing of Gjerdinen is the claimed *playing automatically to the user* the other songs that have a similar mapping of musical properties. Eyal teaches a method of searching media content includes music, video clips (Eyal, Col. 1, Lines 10-22). As illustrated at FIG. 13, a user is provided with a user interface for receiving media sorted according to one or more categories, such as type of music. In response to the selection of a category, a play-list is created and sent to the user terminal for playing consecutively and automatically. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to apply the Eyal technique of automatically playing the result list of media to Gjerdingen method in order to allow a user evaluating the result by listening.

Regarding claim 2, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Eyal further discloses *the user requests a particular song which the user finds pleasing and the song analysis and matching system automatically plays a set of songs with similar fundamental musical properties as the chosen song* (Eyal, Col. 36, Lines 32-56).

Regarding claim 3, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Gjerdingen further discloses *the user specifies the type of music preferred by defining a partial element of a song wherein the element is selected from a group of song elements including mood descriptors, tempo descriptors and weight descriptors* (Gjerdingen, FIG. 10A).

Regarding claim 4, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Eyal further discloses *the user specifies a plurality of analysis elements selected from a group of analysis elements including a partial element of a song, a song, an album, an artist and a genre* (Eyal, FIG. 21).

Regarding claim 5, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Eyal further discloses *the user while listening to a particular song transmits a "get more" command resulting in the musical properties of the currently playing song being captured by the analysis and matching system and automatically playing to the user other songs that have a similar mapping of musical properties as the currently playing song* (Eyal, FIG. 13).

Regarding claim 6, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Gjerdingen further discloses *the user may indicate an affinity for music whose corresponding attribute lies more in a specified direction for the musical property* (Gjerdingen, FIG. 10A).

Regarding claim 8, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Gjerdingen further discloses *the user automatically receives recommendations that match trends detected by the song analysis and matching system* (Gjerdingen, Col. 30, Lines 34-42).

Regarding claim 9, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Gjerdingen further discloses *the song analysis and matching system determines a user profile based on the historical record of past decisions made by the user* (Gjerdingen, FIG. 5F).

Regarding claim 10, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Gjerdingen further discloses *the song analysis and matching system determines both trends in song selection and dynamic changes in user profile to make recommendations to the user* (Gjerdingen, FIG. 5F).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 7, Gjerdingen and Eyal, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, but fail to teach or suggest the claimed *by accessing a historical record, the user can recover all previous decisions and can restart the playing of music by the analysis and matching system in accordance with previous preferences*.


Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q PHAM whose telephone number is 571-272-4040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Hung Pham
December 16, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER